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22 March 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant to the Director

SUBJECT : Talk Given to High School Group

1. Attached is a copy of the outline of a talk I gave on 21 March at the Mayflower Hotel to a group of about 150 male students of the Essex, New Jersey, Catholic High School. The talk was arranged by Mr. [REDACTED] of the Office of the General Counsel at the request of Congressman Peter Rodino of New Jersey. According to [REDACTED] the request was approved by you and by the Executive Director-Comptroller.

2. In addition to the high school students, there were present a half dozen members of the school's staff; four bus drivers; Congressman Rodino (who introduced me); Congressman George Minish of New Jersey; Mr. John Conway, who was introduced as the Director of the Administrative Staff of the Atomic Energy Commission; and a half dozen other, unidentified men who apparently were New Jerseyites in residence in Washington. As far as I know, the press was not represented.

3. I was introduced as a CIA intelligence training officer. I talked for about 30 minutes, and the students asked questions for about 20 minutes. The questions were rather naive ones and presented no difficulties. There were no questions about the U-2, Bay of Pigs, Dominican Republic, or Vietnam. The NSA question did come up, of course, and I answered by referring to the State Department news release and paraphrasing the articles by Reston, Rowan, White, et. al.

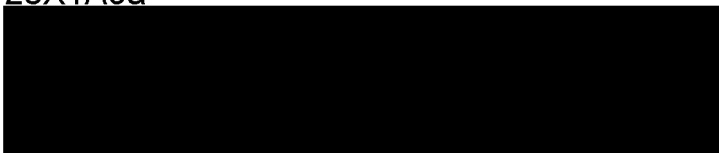
4. At least a dozen of the students had cameras, and throughout the dinner and the program that followed they took pictures of the speakers' table -- Congressman Rodino seemed to be their prime target, and I sat next to him. Because I am an overt employee of the Agency, I did not feel called upon to hide my face.

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5. The general reaction of the audience and the inevitable small-group discussions that followed the program indicated friendly and favorable attitudes toward the Agency. There was no implication of antagonism or suspicion.

6. I am reporting this situation rather fully because there are hundreds of high school groups that visit Washington every spring, and there may be dozens of congressmen who might think of asking for CIA speakers. My own feeling is that talking to high-school groups is a good step toward image building, but I think that we should be conscious of the possibility that some newspaper or magazine may come out with a story about CIA now recruiting spies among students at the high-school level -- a story with pictures to prove it.

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Chief, Intelligence School, OTR

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